

virtual province of the United States. And the White House calls that a foreign policy triumph.

So, Mr. Speaker, the next time you are asked about Bosnia, take a look at where Bill Clinton has been and if that does not frighten you I do not know what will.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE PATRICIA SCHROEDER

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of the most principled and courageous Members of Congress—I speak of none other than my dear friend, colleague, and mentor, PAT SCHROEDER.

PAT is not only an inspiration and role model for me, she is also a shining example of what all women and people of conscience should strive to be. Over the years, PAT has stood by her beliefs and the beliefs of our party, even when it was unpopular to do so. She is more than just a leader, she is the moral compass of our generation.

Mr. Speaker, PAT SCHROEDER came to Congress as a defender of those in our society with no voices and no lobbies. I am proud to say that she will be leaving Congress still untainted by the system, true to her beliefs.

Thank you, PAT, for your service to our country, and thank you for making the women of America proud. Things just will not be the same without you.

#### POLITICS AS USUAL

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, for months my Republican colleagues have come to the well of this House and said their top priority is to balance the budget. That is good rhetoric but most Americans would be surprised to find out if you look at it, the Republican budget increases the deficit in each of the next 2 years.

Let me repeat that for you. The Republican budget increases the deficit in each of the next 2 years. What they do is they give tax breaks for wealthy Americans this year and say, "Trust us, 3, 4, 5 years from now, we will make those tough spending cuts." That is politics as usual, and it is irresponsible.

I call the Republican budget plan the dessert budget. It is like a person saying, "I care so much about going on a diet that I am going to start out with a dessert on the first day of my diet and have a hot fudge sundae." That does not work in diets and it is not going to work in deficits.

My friends, Republicans must decide if they care more about pushing their rhetoric of balancing the budget or whether they care more about giving tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.

#### GOP CUTS AFFECT CHRISTMAS

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, only 25 more shopping days until Christmas. All around the country, children wonder what goodies they will unwrap. Now, kids, what do you think you will get?

Well, I hope you do not have your heart set on a college education. The Republicans cut student loans, so a diploma is going to be pretty hard to come by this year.

How about a clean environment? Well, I hope that is not too high on your list either.

Even if you do not find a lump of coal in your stocking, you will find more coal—and soot and ash—in the air you breathe and the water you drink.

Why? Because the GOP had to give a present to their big business buddies. After all—those lobbyists gave them some very nice campaign checks.

And, sorry, we cannot go "over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house." You see, when the Republicans scrapped Medicare and Medicaid, Grandma had to get rid of her house.

So kids, load up on all the candy canes you can find—it is not too nutritious, but if the GOP takes away your school lunch, that might be the only thing to eat this season.

#### REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, in 1952 the Federal Government taxed the American family 4 percent of its income. In 1995, the Federal Government taxes the average American family 24 percent.

In 1950, the Federal Government spent a little over 10 percent of the gross national product. Today the government spends about 25 percent of the gross national product.

In 1950, the Federal deficit was about \$3 billion. This year it is around \$200 billion.

Mr. Speaker, is there a trend here?

Bigger Government, more and more debt, and less take home pay for the American family. Well, the time has come to turn these trends around. This Republican-led Congress is committed to balancing the budget. We recognize that Government is too big and taxes too much. The Balanced Budget Act of 1995 represents an end to the tax and spend policies that have produced a huge Government and \$5 trillion debt. It also says to America's families: you earned it, you keep it, it is yours in the first place.

#### RELEASE CHINESE POLITICAL PRISONER

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this House of Representatives has for a long time now been a bulwark of support for pro-Democratic reform in China. So it is very sad for me today to rise and call upon my colleagues to join in calling upon the Chinese Government to immediately release Wei Jing Shing.

As many Members know, Wei Jing Shing is the father of the prodemocracy movement in China. He was arrested at the time of the prodemocracy wall activities and served mostly in solitary confinement for about 15 years. He was released when China wanted to get the Olympics.

He was rearrested 6 months later for giving interviews to the press as well as meeting with the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights John Shattuck. After 20 months he was held incommunicado. Last week he was charged with trying to overthrow the government, a capital offense punishable by death.

It is very important that the United States of America, the Clinton administration, and this Congress speak out loudly and clearly to the Chinese Government and join with the 15 dissidents who risked their own personal safety to call for Wei's release, a commutation of the charges brought against him and, if he goes to trial, a fair and open trial for Wei Jing Shing.

#### PRIORITIES

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, Republicans passed a balanced budget with specific plans that reflect the priorities of the American people. However, the President has said we did not increase spending as much as he would like. So we asked him to tell us exactly how much more he wants to spend and where exactly he is going to get the money from: Higher taxes or other cuts. So far he has refused to tell us.

Once the President comes forward with his priorities and how much more he wants to spend, I am confident negotiations will move quickly toward a balanced budget.

#### NOTHING COULD BE MORE CLEAR

(Mr. LEWIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the cat is out of the bag. According to articles in papers across the country, Speaker GINGRICH's personal political slush fund—GOPAC—was illegally providing funds and resources to Federal candidates in 1990. And lo and behold, who appears to have been the primary recipient of such funds, Speaker GINGRICH himself.

All of this has come to light in a lawsuit brought against GOPAC by the Federal Election Commission. Among